Hunger syndrome

1611. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) declared during 2007 that 854 million people go hungry around the world and also predicted worse position during 2008;

(b) if so, whether this particular aspect has been kept in view in the perspective planning for Twelfth and Thirteenth Five Year Plans; and

(c) in what manner we can tackle this 'hunger syndrome' while expecting a four per cent agricultural growth and simultaneously, enormous growth in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Global Hunger Index for the year 2007, it was estimated that 854 million people go hungry around the world. Food security considerations remain an area of priority in the process of perspective planning. The National Food Security Mission which has been set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, aims at increasing the food grains production by 20 Million Tonnes by the end of the Plan. A new Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched to provide additional financial resources to state governments to finance agriculture development programmes emerging from district level agriculture plans which take into account district specific agro-climatic constraints. In addition, expansion of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and a renewed thrust at watershed development has been planned. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) gives the priority to the projects aimed at water conservation, and effective convergence of resources available under National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (NREGS) with ultimately serving the larger objective of enhancing agriculture productivity.

Bringing common man to mainstream

†1612. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether our first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said that the objective of independence cannot be fulfilled until the weakest person of the society is not brought into the mainstream;

(b) whether this statement is not true, today; and

(c) the policy of Government to make this statement true?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech on the eve of India's Independence elaborated the meaning of freedom by committing ourselves for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

service of India which means ending of poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. The above ambition set by our first Prime Minister is still relevant in the present situation.

(c) After Independence, India has resorted to a planned development primarily to guide the direction of development. The alleviation of poverty, disease, illiteracy and development of social and economic infrastructure has been the priority areas of the various Five Years Plans. As a result of the above strategy, there has been a significant reduction in poverty ratio which has come down from 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 to 27.5 per cent 2004-05. Similarly, in the health and education sectors, there has been a significant achievements in terms of increased expectancy of life, reduction in infant morality rate and significant improvement in the literacy rate etc. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points for which various programmes including programmes for generating wage and self-employment are being implemented. To achieve the objective of inclusive growth, some of the major initiatives taken include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) etc.

India's rank in human development report

†1613. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been placed at 138th rank in Human Development Report of United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether development of India seems quite slow in comparison to the other developing countries in terms of level of basic human amenities; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) India has been placed at 134th rank in Human Development Report (HDR) of UNDP 2009 (based on data up to 2007). The HDR 2009 includes the data for 192 UN member States. India with Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.612 reflects an improvement over the previous report which indicated the HDI value of 0.604.

(c) and (d) India has registered a consistent improvement in HDI value which was 0.427 in 1980 and improved to 0.612 in 2007. The HDR 2009 also reveals that average annual growth rate in HDI value in respect of India has been 1.36 per cent during the period 2000-07 which is significant as

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